

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 remain canceled. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7-23 are pending, with Claims 1, 10, 16 and 19 being independent. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that Claims 19 and 23 are allowed and that Claim 13 defines allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 19 is amended to replace the word "means" with the word --unit--.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1, 4, 6-12, 14-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,740,496), hereinafter *Kawabuchi*.

This application addresses a situation where a user of an image processing machine is interested in discarding a print job, for whatever reason, while maintaining the associated image forming conditions. As described in the present specification, one of the drawbacks associated with the prior art is that when a user discarded a print job the, the image forming conditions were also necessarily discarded. Thus, the user was then required to re-establish the image forming conditions necessary for the next print job.

Along those lines, Claim 1 recites in part: an image data discarding controller for discarding the image data stored in the first memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the command unit, while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the second memory.

In contrast to the present application, and specifically that portion of Claim 1, *Kawabushi* is concerned with discarding a print job that is printing or a print job that

is being read, together with the associated set mode data. In column 10, lines 22-30 (emphasis added) (identified in the Official Action), *Kawabushi* states that “by selecting either one of the selection keys L1 and L2 displayed on the liquid crystal display 91, the image data and set mode data for the job which is being read or the image data and set mode data for the job which is being printed may be selected. Therefore, without increasing the number of keys on the operation panel, the operation for abandoning data corresponding to the reading operation or the data corresponding to the printing operation can be easily abandoned even in multiple job operation.” That is, *Kawabushi* discloses that the image data and the set mode are discarded together.

For at least that reason, *Kawabushi* does not disclose discarding image data while maintaining associated image forming conditions and does not disclose or suggest subject matter along those lines recited in Claim 1.

Claims 10 and 16 are allowable for similar reasons as those for Claim 1, with regard to similar claim language.

Claims 4, 6-12, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20-22 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent Claims.

For at least the above-reasons, it is requested that all the rejections be withdrawn and that this application be allowed in a timely manner.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

(INCLUDING ATTORNEYS FROM BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS)

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By: 
Kevin Brayton McGoff
Registration No. 53,297

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620